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**Lesson One: Who Is Our Spiritual Family?**

**I. If we have obeyed the gospel we have attained a spiritual relationship that Scripture compares to the family relationship.**

A. The spiritual relationship in Christ.

1. What demonstrates God’s love bestowed on Christians (1 John 3:1-3)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. How may one become a child of God (Galatians 3:26-27)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. How does Jesus describe the relationship between disciples (Matthew 23:5-8)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. How does Peter teach Christians to lover each other (1 Peter 3:8-9)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. How does Paul characterize the treatment of older and younger Christians (1 Timothy 5:1-2)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ How does this harmonize with Jesus instructions in Matthew 23:9? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

6. What is Christ willing to call believers (Hebrews 2:10-14)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

7. How is the bond between believers described (Ephesians 3:14-17)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ For whom is this relationship “named”? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

B. Discussion:

1. Do those in Christ necessarily share a fleshly family relationship?

2. Is it easy to treat those to whom we are not physically related as family?

3. Are there times when our spiritually family may be closer to us than our family in the flesh?

4. What are some challenges involved treating other Christians as family?

**II. The Bible defines proper behavior in the family.**

1. Christians seek to help their family go to heaven.

1. How are fathers to bring up their children (Ephesians 6:4)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ What does this mean? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

2. From whom did Timothy learn Scriptures (2 Timothy 1:3-5; 3:14-15)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ What did this make him “wise unto”? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

3. What does Paul say husbands and wives may do (1 Corinthians 7:16)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

4. What does Peter teach that a submissive wife may do (1 Peter 3:1-2)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

5. How does Peter describe the spiritual relationship between a Christian husband and wife (1 Peter 3:7)? \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

1. Discussion:
2. What is the most important thing parents should teach their children?
3. How should our relationship with our spiritual and fleshly families coincide?
4. What can prevent our fleshly family from being a part of our spiritual family?

**III. Our spiritual family then is made up of…**

* Members of the congregation where we are identified (Acts 15:30-33).
* Christians in other congregations (Acts 15:36).
* God, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit (Ephesians 6:23; Romans 8:15-17).
* Our Christian spouse, parents, children, and extended family members (Mark 10:28-30).

**Conclusion.** Our study will consider how the Bible teaches us to love those who are a part of this spiritual relationship. This is what we will consider in this study.